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1944-45

REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN - MR. D. E. CAMERON

During the year the work of the Library, so far as service to the student body is concerned, has been maintained as efficiently as possible. The difficulties of administration have however, been more serious than in any of the earlier war years. Miss Giffen has fortunately continued to serve in the Medical Library, and for some months we had the service of a trained cataloguer, but otherwise we have had to depend on temporary help, which requires training before being of great use, and in January we lost three full-time assistants, owing to war conditions, within three weeks. The result was that we had to resort to student help, with fragmented hours, so that the strain of our two regular staff members in Reference and Circulation has been unusually great for the second half of the term, and the Cataloguer has had again to train an assistant. Further, the handing over to the Cataloguer of the work of forwarding orders and keeping track of their filling has been necessary by the new duty placed on the librarian in connection with ex-service personnel. Miss Hamilton and Mr. Appelt have borne the brunt of the present situation with great cheerfulness, but relief in regard to trained staff is urgent, and as soon as trained personnel again become available, should be taken care of.

The need for further trained staff will become imperative with the development of the Library of the Faculty of Education, which, with some 13,000 volumes in sight, of which about 3,000 are uncatalogued, provides a task of some magnitude. These books are now dispersed, some being in use and some in storage, and at least those which will be in use during the Summer School must be got ready in time for the beginning of the term. At present no trained assistants are in sight. The Library Schools are asking students to present themselves for training,

and there has been no diminution so far of the number of library assistants in the Auxiliary Services. Relief, however, should soon be in sight.

The condition of the retail and wholesale book trade has been very difficult, as no priority was allowed for employees in the book trade. Our agents have had to inform us that they can only handle a portion of our orders - in some cases about a third - as publishers cannot deliver and they cannot collect. An appeal to another large house received the reply that no new account could be received, as staff was recently reduced by a further ten per cent. The result has been that we have a very large backlog of unfilled orders, which we hope soon to be able to correct. Correspondence has been proportionally heavy, and fruitless.

In journals there has been printing of short editions, and resultant missed copies, but it is hoped that this will soon end with the relaxation of controls on paper. Altogether this has been our worst year in these respects.

Our binding programme has however been well maintained, as a fair supply of materials was procured when a possible shortage became a possibility. We have also done a good deal to build up journal files, and constant watch is kept on offerings in this field.

The use of the Medical Library by the practitioners of the Province has become a marked feature of the Library's work, and shows increased appreciation of this service.

Mail service to outside students has kept up well, and the benefit to students of the reduced postal rate has been amply demonstrated.

Two members of the staff are still on national service. In view of the needs of the staff for the immediate post-war period, steps are being taken to ascertain whether they propose to return to the Library on discharge.

During the year the Librarian had a first conference with Mr. Mather, the Architect, and the Library is ready to submit its suggestions when the time comes for the consideration of details affecting the proposed plan.

The Librarian wishes to express his thanks to the members of the staff for patience and loyalty through a definitely trying year, and would add that the student help pulled us through a difficult period.

No special comment is needed on the student users of the Library. This year showed a continuation of the serious concern of the students with their work; if anything, the air was one of strain and over-seriousness.

For the convenience of Summer School students in particular a collection of reference books previously administered from St. Joseph's College has been taken over by the Library by purchase, as joint administration of the collection was found to be inconvenient to all concerned.

During the year donations were received as follows:

- (a) The Philosophical Society again made a gift of \$90.00 from its funds, which was expended on the purchase of a wanted reference work, "Essay and General Literature Index."
- (b) Mr. Harry Cohen of Edmonton very generously presented to the Library a set of the new 'Jewish Encyclopedia.'
- (c) Three volumes were received from the Macy Foundation, New York.
- (d) Major Seth Halton - an interesting file of the overseas 'Maple Leaf'.
- (e) A volume on 'Ukrainian Literature', from the Ukrainian Canadian Committee.
- (f) The Sculpture of Michael Angelo from Mrs. Worden of Grimshaw.
- (g) Annual Belgian Handbook, from the Belgian Consulate.

- (h) Original edition of Catlin's Indian, from Mr. M. J. Warner, Edmonton.
- (i) A volume of the Rhodes Scholarships, from Miss M. MacKenzie.
- (j) Publications of the Provincial Research Council.
- (k) File of State and Provincial Publications, Health Authorities of North America.
- (l) Two volumes on Claude Bernard, from the University of Mexico.
- (m) Catalogue of Insects predators, from Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.
- (n) Publications of the Carnegie Institution and Carnegie Endowment.
- (o) Publications of Social Research Council.
- (p) Catalogue of Flowering Plants etc. from Professor C. W. Lowe, Manitoba.
- (q) Three volumes Tracts on Liberty, from Mr. Surplis, Calgary.
- (r) One volume from American Can Co. 'Coals of Alberta' from Professor Stansfield.
- (s) Individual volumes presented by Dr. J. J. Ower, Mr. J. Spillios, Consolidated Vultee Aircraft, Mr. Ray Milner, Dr. A. R. Munro, Dr. T. H. Shastid of Duluth, The Polish Telegraph Agency, Dr. D. Ewen Cameron of McGill University.
- (t) From various Universities, publications in gift or on exchange.

All of the above have been suitably acknowledged.

Number of accessioned volumes, 80,202; increase in year, 3,505.

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